

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 9-11, 34-36, and 42-44 have been rejected. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-13, 15, 36, 39-41, 43-46, and 48 are amended. Claims 1, 9, 34, and 42 stand rejected. No new matter has been added

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 9-11, 34-36, and 42 - 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent App. No. 2003/0093694 filed by Medvinsky et al ("Medvinsky"), in view of US Patent No. 5,809,144 issued to Sirbu et al ("Sirbu") and in further view of US Patent No. 7,188,360 issued to Gerdes et al ("Gerdes").

Although applicants do not agree with the rejections, the rejected claims are either canceled or amended to depend from an allowable claim as described more fully below. These changes are made in the interest of expeditiously bringing prosecution on the merits to an end and applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in a continuation application.

Claims 1, 9, 34, and 42 have been canceled rendering their rejections moot. All other rejected claims have been amended to depend from a claim objected to for being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Since the claims from which they depend have been so amended, Applicants submit that claims 2-3, 10-11, 35-36, and 43-44 are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 5 of the above-captioned office action, Examiner has objected to claims 4-8, 12-17, 37-41 and 45-50 indicating that they would allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7, 13, 40, and 46 have been amended to be in independent form including the elements of the rejected base claim. Furthermore, claims 4-6, 8, 12, 14-17, 37-39, 41, 45, and 47-50 have been amended to depend on one of claims 7, 13, 40, and 46 or from an intervening claim that depends from one those claims. As such, Applicants submit that claims 4-8, 12-17, 37-41 and 45-50 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1518. If any fees are due in connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, P.C., No. 50-0393.

Respectfully submitted,
SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

Dated: December 20, 2007

/Richard B. Leggett/
Richard B. Leggett
Reg. No. 59,485

Pacwest Center, Suite 1900
1211 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503)222-9981